

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Edible chewable object for pets, this object (1) being elongated along a longitudinal axis ~~wherein the length of said object in the direction of said longitudinal axis is greater than the height and width of said object in respective directions transverse to said longitudinal axis~~ and composed of a chewable, edible and digestive matrix, characterised in that the shape of the object (1) includes at least two dihedrons (d_1 , d_2) extending between first and second ends of said object, the edges (a_1 , a_2) of which extend each said dihedron being formed by two sides oriented to intersect in a substantially straight line parallel to the longitudinal axis and at a dihedral angle α , said two sides forming a longitudinal edge (a_1 , a_2) that extends approximately along the entire length of the object between said first and second ends of the object, the entire length of the object measured in the direction of the longitudinal axis being greater than its width measured in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis, and in that the composition of the matrix contains at least one active constituent, being a chemical or biological agent with either a local or systemic therapeutic, remedial or preventive activity, or an anti-tartar activity acting against caries, dental plaque, calcareous deposits, or an activity reinforcing the dental structure, and in that the composition of the matrix is between 0.01 and 5% by weight of the matrix.

2. (Original) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the edges (a_1 , a_2) of the dihedrons (d_1 , d_2) are approximately straight, or concave or convex.

3. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the edges (a_1 , a_2) of the dihedrons (d_1 , d_2) are rounded.

4. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the dihedrons (d_1 , d_2) form an angle α of between 0.5° and 70° .

5. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the object (1) has a polygonal shaped cross section with n projecting angles (α) to form n edges.

6. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that it has the shape of a diabolo with a central part (3) and two end parts (5) each of which has a cross section with two projecting angles (α) to form two edges a_1 and a_2 .

7. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the chewable object (1) has a globally S shaped cross section with a central part (3) and two end parts (5) that project on each side of the central part (3), each end part having at least two projecting angles (α) in the cross section, to form at least two edges (a_1 and a_2).

8. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the chewable object (1) has a globally V-shaped cross section with two dihedrons (d_1 and d_2) that define three edges (a_1 , a_2 , a_3).

9. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the chewable object (1) has a globally W-shaped cross section with four dihedrons (d_1 , d_2 , d_3 , d_4) that define five longitudinal edges (a_1 , a_2 , a_3 , a_4 , a_5).

10. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the chewable object has a globally diamond-shaped cross section with two projecting angles (α) to form two edges (a_1 , a_2).

11. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the content of active constituents in the composition of the matrix does not exceed 10%.

12. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the composition of the matrix contains 2 to 5 active constituents.

13. (Previously presented) Edible, chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that said at least one active constituent is chosen from among fluorine salts; inorganic pyrophosphates of mono or divalent alkaline metals with formulas $M_{n+2}P_nO_{3n+1}$ where M is a monovalent metal or $M'_nP_nO_{3n+1}$ where M' is a divalent metal, anti-microbials and / or anti-fungals and / or antiseptics; bromochlorophene; triclosan; benzalkonium chloride; chlorobutanol; cetylpyridinium chloride; benzoic acid salts; zinc diglyconate; potassium thiocyanate; vitamin C and its salts; citric acid and its salts; oxidoreductases or oxidoreductases associated with a specific substrate; enzymes chosen amongst lysozyme and lactoferrine; remineralising agents; tooth bleaching substances; and natural or modified polysaccharides.

14. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the composition of the matrix contains at least one abrasive agent.

15. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 14, characterised in that the abrasive agent is chosen from among silica derivatives-chosen

amongst hydrated silica, zirconium silicate, aluminium silicate or magnesium trisilicate; calcium carbonate; sodium bicarbonate; phosphate derivatives chosen amongst calcium dihydrogen phosphate ($\text{Ca}(\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4)_2$), calcium monohydrogen phosphate (CaHPO_4), magnesium - ammonium phosphate (MgNH_4PO_4) or calcium pyrophosphate ($\text{Ca}_2\text{P}_2\text{O}_7$); an alumina; pumice stone powder, finely ground marine limestone, bone powder.

16. (Previously presented) Edible chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the composition of the matrix comprises at least one flavour, and / or at least one tasting agent, and /or at least one wetting agent and /or at least one preservation agent.

17. (Previously presented) Edible chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that it is produced by extrusion or by moulding or by extrusion – moulding.

18. (Withdrawn) Use of a chewable object according to claim 1, for prevention and / or treatment of gingivitis and / or parodontitis of pets.

19. (Withdrawn) Use of a chewable object according to claim 1, for the prevention and / or treatment of tartar deposits in the oral cavity of pets.

20. (Withdrawn) Method for achieving hygiene in the oral cavity and teeth of a carnivorous pet, using an elongated chewable, edible and digestible object that the pet can easily grip, method characterised in that it consists of:

- in a first step, improving contact between the object and the teeth of the pet due to the presence of edges that extend around practically the entire length of the object and the presence of components or abrasive agents contained in the matrix of the object, for mechanical cleaning of the teeth of the pet both on the surfaces and in interstices and / or cavities;

- in a second step, bringing the active constituents contained in the matrix of the object into contact with the cleaned teeth;

- in a third step, causing softening of the edges of the object that then act as a scraper with a flexible apron, after hydration of the object by the pet's saliva; and

- in a fourth step, releasing all active constituents to bring them into contact with the pet's complete oral cavity by the combined action of chewing the object that causes its disintegration and the presence of abundant saliva.

21. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 20, characterised in that it consists of adapting the hardness of the matrix of the object as a function of the pet considered, choosing a hardness such that firstly the object (and particularly its edges) is sufficiently

hard so that it is not crushed or fragmented when the pet begins to chew the object, and secondly to obtain progressive softening of the edges such that the abrasive effect on the teeth is sufficient, and to choose a hardness such that the object can be disintegrated under the effect of chewing, and assimilated by the pet.

22. (Previously presented) Chewable object according to claim 1, characterised in that the dihedrons (d_1 , d_2) form an angle α between 10° and 50° .

23. (Previously presented) Edible, chewable object according to claim 13, wherein said fluorine salts are selected from the group consisting of sodium fluoride, sodium monofluorate, tin fluoride alone or mixed; said inorganic pyrophosphates of mono or divalent alkaline metals are selected from the group consisting of tetrasodium pyrophosphate, tetrapotassium pyrophosphate, sodium acid pyrophosphate, calcium pyrophosphate; said anti-microbials and / or anti-fungals and / or antiseptics comprise chlorhexidine or its salts; said benzoic acid salt comprises sodium benzoate; said vitamin C and its salts comprise zinc ascorbate; said oxidoreductases are selected from the group consisting of glucose oxidase, galacto oxidase, lactoperoxidase, glycollate oxidase, lactate oxidase, L-gluconolactone oxidase, L-2hydroxyacide oxidase, aldehyde oxidase, xanthine oxidase, D-aspartate oxidase, L-amino acid oxidase, D-amino acid oxidase, monoamine oxidase, pyridoxaminephosphate oxidase, diamine oxidase, sulphite oxidase, and each of these oxidoreductases may be oxidoreductases associated with a specific substrate, said specific substrate being selected from the group consisting of D-glucose, D-galactose, L-sorbose, ethanol, tyramine, 1,4-diaminobutane, 6-hydroxy-L-nicotine, 6-hydroxy-D-nicotine, 2-aminophenol, glycollate, L-lactate, 2-deoxy-D-Glucose, L-gluconolactone, L-galactolactone, D-mannonolactone, L-2hydroxyisocaproate, acetaldehyde, butyraldehyde, xanthine, D-aspartate, D-glutamate, L-aminoacids and D-aminoacids.